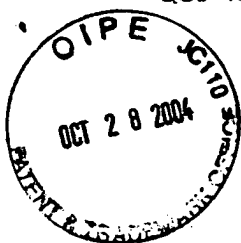


BSI-430US8

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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: 09/657,041
Applicant: Leonard Pinchuk et al.
Filed: 9/5/2000
Title: Expandable Supportive Branched Endoluminal Grafts
T.C./A.U.: 3731
Examiner: Michael H. Thaler

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner is requested to consider copending Application No.

10/692,886.

In the present application, applicants copied claims from the U.S. Patent No. 6,576,009 issued to Ryan et al. on June 10, 2003. The '009 patent issued from Application No. 09/502,942, filed on February 11, 2000 and published on October 24, 2002 as U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156521. Claims 54-61 currently pending in Application No. 10/692,886 are substantially the same as claims of the '521 Patent Application Publication.

On April 28, 2003, the Ryan et al. applicants filed Application No. 10/423,905. The '905 application was published as Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0195614 on October 16, 2003. The claims in the '614 Patent Application Publication are substantially the same as the claims in the '521 Patent application Publication. On October 15, 2004, claims substantially the same as claims in the '614 Patent Application Publication were added to U.S. Application Serial No. 10/692,886 in a Fourth Preliminary Amendment to the '886 application. More specifically, claims 85-92 are currently pending in the '856 application and are substantially the same as claims in the '614 Patent Application Publication.

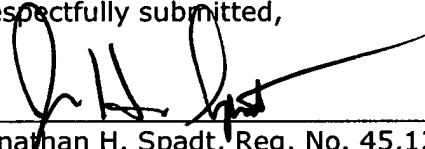
Even though claims 85-92 in the '886 application are substantially the same as claims 54-61 in that same application, claims 85-92 were added in an abundance of caution in case the copying was required by 35 U.S.C. § 135(b)(2).

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

More than three months have elapsed since the filing of the above-referenced application and a first (non-Final) Official Action has been received. No Final Action or Notice of Allowance has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. Accordingly, the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is provided herewith.

Respectfully submitted,


Jonathan H. Spadt, Reg. No. 45,122
Attorney for Applicants

JHS/dhm

Enclosures: Transmittal Form
Fee Transmittal
Credit Card Payment Form

Dated: October 25, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to:
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October 25, 2004

